(d) to (f) The National Health Policy 2002 states that State Governments could rigorously enforce a mandatory two-year rural posting before the awarding of the graduate degree. Some State Governments have already made rural service compulsory before admission to P.G. courses or at the time of initial appointment.

Amendment in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act

1256. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act to include a clause on genetically modified food;

(b) whether our laboratories are fully equipped to test the genetically modified foods for safety certification; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The possibility of incorporating provision to regulate sale/import of GM foods under PFA Rules, 1955 is presently under consideration.

(b) and (c) At present, our laboratories are not fully equipped to test the genetically modified foods for safety certification. However, many of the Indian Laboratories are equipped for conducting food safety evaluation. Few of the Institutions namely, Industrial Toxicological Research Centre, Lucknow; GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology; Pant Nagar; Natioanl Dairy Research Institute Karnal; Central Avian Research Institute, Bareilly and Central Institute of Fisheries Education , Mumbai were engaged in food and feed safety evaluation of Genetically Modified Cotton.

WHO permission for manufacturing herbal drugs

1257. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Herbal Industry is awaiting a decision from World Health Organisation for manufacturing certain drugs;

(b) if so, whether such a permission is mandatory and if so, the details thereof;